Citizens' Initiative for Radio and Television Autonomy (CIRTA) have called for immediate implementation of the Act; if so, what are the points made by the group and steps Government have taken to implement the same; and

(d) whether Government have taken notice of Supreme Courts' Judgement regarding liberation of the electronic media from Government Control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Certain changes, inter-alia, in the proposed organisational structure of the Corporation envisaged in the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 are warranted in the light of the rapidly changing broadcasting scenario because of increased international satellite broadcasting in this part of the world.

(c) The Government is not aware of any such call in this regard.

(d) The judgements delivered by the Supreme Court in the case of Union of India versus Cricket Association of Bengal on 9-2-95 are under examination.

Autonomy to Electronic Media

289. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court in its recent order has asked Government to give autonomy to Radio and TV for the setting up of an independent public authority to control and regulate the use of airwaves;

(b) whether in view of the Supreme Court verdict, Government propose to implement the Prasar Bharati Act, and

(c) if so, what follow up action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) The judgements delivered by the Supreme Court in the case of Union of India versus Cricket Association of Bengal on 9-2-95 are under examination.

Coverage to Welfare Schemes of Orissa Government by Doordarshan

290. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the plan and programme particularly Welfare Schemes launched by State Government of Orissa and several other States are not being given coverage by Doordarshan and Akashwani;

(b) if so, the reasons for the inadequate coverage of State Government's programmes particularly Orissa Government's programmes on TV and All India Radio; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to regulate the coverage in the All India Radio and Doordarshan to the welfare programmes of the State Government of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In accordance with the general policy guidelines issued to the Official Media, Doordarshan Kendra and AIR Stations in Orissa are disseminating information relating to developmental and welfare schemes launched by the Government of Orissa from time to time.